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Party Work in Labor Unions Must Improve

Rabotnichesko Delo, Sofia, 15 Dec 1951

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Formed and consolidated under the leadership of the Party and Georgi Dimitrov himself, the labor unions have played a large part in the life of the working class and its struggle against capitalist exploitation in Bulgaria. Through them the Party has organized the blue- and white-collar workers for the protection of their material interests and has worked constantly to raise the level of awareness of the working class.

In the struggle to build Socialism in Bulgaria the labor unions, as faithful assistants of the Party, are now playing an important part in the fight to fulfill the production plans and to carry out the communist indoctrination of the blue- and white-collar workers. The resolution of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party on the labor unions and their tasks in the struggle to build socialism in Bulgaria is a new expression of the great attention and assistance which the Party is giving to the matter of raising the level of labor union activity to a higher level.

Comrade Stalin says: "Labor unions may be called a general organization of the working class, which is dominant in our country. They are a school for communism. They provide from their ranks the best workers for administrative work in all branches of the government. They form the link between the [politically]

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conscious and unconscious members of the working class. They unite the masses of the workers with the vanguard of the working class."

Profiting by the rich Soviet experience, the Bulgarian labor unions have achieved great successes in the stimulation and direction of socialist competition among the blue- and white-collar workers for the fulfillment of the production plans, in the struggle to introduce the Soviet stakhanovite methods of work and to utilize the experience of the Bulgarian labor prize winners in production to raise the cultural and political standards of the workers, to increase their socialist consciousness, and to instill into them a new attitude towards labor and the state. The labor unions have helped, and continue to help, strengthen the brotherly union between the working class and the working peasants by assuming the patronage of farm workers' cooperatives, machine-tractor stations, etc.

As Comrade Vulko Chervenkov stresses, the labor unions, as a very important transmission belt linking the Party with the working class, have the mission of mobilizing the entire working class for a radical improvement of work in industry, transportation, public education, health organization, etc. All this obliges okrug, okoliya, city, and rayon Party committees and the primary Party organizations to consider it their principal duty to guide and assist the labor unions.

In spite of the numerous instructions of Georgi Dimitrov and Comrade Vulko Chervenkov there are still Party committees and primary Party organizations which continue to underestimate the

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importance of the great part played by the labor unions in the struggle to carry out the decisions of the Party and the government. Such an attitude, for example, has been taken towards labor union activity by the Party's general mines committee at Borieva Reka. This committee deliberated upon, and reached decisions concerning the question of organizing competition among the mine groups for the best organized communal living quarters, the best workers' cafeteria, and the like, without consulting the okrug committee of the miners' union, which is located in the same building. But that is not all, for Comrade Karastoyanov, a member of the bureau of the Party general mines committee, states that the okrug committee of the miners' union cannot be intrusted with these assignments because it is "weak" and is not in a position to fulfill them satisfactorily. Now, why is the okrug committee of the miners' union "weak" and what assistance has the okrug Party committee extended to it to help it overcome its weaknesses? It appears that neither the general Party committee as a whole nor Comrade Karastoyanov individually has stopped to think about that.

The rayon Party committees in the industrial Chervenkov and sixth rayons of Sofia and the okoliya Party committee in Sofia rural okoliya have shown that they also fail to realize the importance of the work of the labor unions, for they have not taken up the question of improving the Party administration of the labor unions. For a whole year now such an attitude is incorrect and harmful, and it leads to the alienation of the Party from the greatest mass organization of the working class, the labor unions, and then to the alienation from the working class itself.

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Underestimating the importance of the work of the labor unions and the character of the Party's guidance of their work. There are also numerous cases in which Party committees in primary organizations make incorrect assumptions about the objectives of the labor unions and by-pass them in their work. The Sofia sixth rayon Party committee called a meeting of the labor group organizers and gave them instructions, although this is the business of the okrug labor union committees. The same defect in the Party direction of labor unions is also stressed in the report of the "Party, labor union and youth organs" section of the Turnovo Okrug Party committee on the work of the okrug committee of the textile workers' labor union in the fulfillment of pledges made to Comrade Vulko Chervenkov. The report contains the statement: "The greater part of the preparations and the giving of the pledges themselves were performed directly by the Party organizations. Actually, instead of guiding and activating the work of labor union committees, the Party organizations took over their functions and left them as mere onlookers."

If the weaknesses in the Party's direction of the work of the labor unions are to be eliminated, there must be constant study of the labor unions' problems and objectives, the Party officials must acquaint themselves regularly with the decisions of the Central Committee of the Federation of Labor Unions, and there must be assurance of direct Party supervision and assistance in the execution of these decisions in the individual units of the labor unions.

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The Khaskovo and Turnovo okrug Party committees have made a good start, for recently at their meetings reports were read on the work of the individual okrug committees of the labor unions in carrying out Party and government decisions. That will make it possible for them to determine the actual state of the labor union work. Along with this they must hear reports on the work of Party organizations with labor union organizations and reports of individual okoliya and city Party committees on the degree to which the Party has assumed the direction of labor union work.

The successes achieved in stimulating socialist competition for the fulfillment of the production plans and of the pledges made to Comrade Vulko Chervenkov testify to the improvement of the work of many primary Party organizations with the labor union organizations. At many enterprises, such as the "Deveti Septemvri" Machine Works at Sofia, the "Maritsa" Plant at Plovdiv, and others, the bureaus of the primary Party organizations discuss regularly the activity of labor union organizations, criticize the defects of the individual communists working in them, and extend direct and regular assistance to them in mobilizing the worker groups for the fulfillment of the production plans.

However, the number of primary Party organizations which take a formalistic attitude towards their work with the labor union organizations and towards the latter's objectives, is not small. It happens quite frequently in such organizations that Party members do not attend meetings of the labor union organizations and that they take no part in labor union work. At a labor union meeting at the "Bobov Dol" Mine, held in connection with the Third Congress of

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the Federation of Labor Unions, only 19 out of 40 persons attended the meeting, and of the 21 workers who were absent 15 were Party members. The postponement of the labor union meetings in connection with the Third Congress of the Federation of Labor Unions at the "Bulgariya" Plant, the "Georgi Dimitrov" Rubber Plant at Sofia, etc., also shows that Party organizations at these enterprises have remained aloof and are still doing so, and that they do not feel any responsibility for the functioning of the labor union organizations.

Without the labor unions, and without their constant consolidation, no administrator of an enterprise or office can cope successfully with the enormous problems connected with the building of socialism, and no Party organization can strengthen its ties with the masses of the workers -- a very necessary condition for the achievement of all Party and government objectives in the industrial enterprises, mines, construction projects, and offices.

The following instructions, given by Comrade Vulko Chervenkov in his report before the Third Party Conference are clear, categorical, and obligatory for all communists and organizations: "It is the duty of primary Party organizations to combat any tendency to underestimate the importance of the labor union, youth, and Fatherland Front organizations as mighty transmission belts linking the Party, the vanguard, with the working class, the masses of the workers; it is their duty to work with might and main to strengthen them and to direct and guide their work toward our great common goal, the building of the socialist society."

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Certain primary Party organizations in enterprises and offices, in transportation and construction, and at machine-tractor stations and state farms still think that Party guidance of a labor union organization can be carried on satisfactorily if only one member of the Party bureau sets himself to the task. This work is an important obligation of the Party bureaus at the enterprises, and they must exercise daily supervision over the organization of competition and the introduction of stakhanovite methods of work, the campaign to improve quality and reduce production costs, and also the organization of the cultural activity of the labor union organizations among the masses. Party control will not meet with any success if it is not accompanied by concrete Party assistance in the work of the union officials and organizations. At their meetings the Party bureaus must regularly hear reports on various matters from the communists who are responsible for the activity of labor union committees, and they must make whatever decisions are needed to improve the work of the labor union organizations. At the same time the Party bureaus must help in developing self-initiative in the labor union administrative bodies and in strengthening the commissions by attracting into them a large number of good production workers. The Party groups must help consolidate the labor union groups which are the basic labor union bodies, and in which the fulfillment of production plans is decided. For that reason it is necessary that each communist have a specific function in a labor union group and be in constant touch with the broad non-Party masses and that he by personal example and explanatory work mobilize the non-Party workers for the fulfillment of the plan and the pledges made to Comrade Vulko Chervenkov.

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The Third Congress of the Federation of Labor Unions is an event of great importance for the labor unions of Bulgaria. The Congress of the Federation of Labor Unions will discuss the important question of the Function of the labor unions in the Fulfillment of the Five-Year Economic Plan and other problems in connection with the general labor union activity. On the basis of the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party the Congress will set new objectives to strengthen the labor unions and to raise the importance of their role in the building of socialism.

Improvement of the Party's political leadership of the labor unions will bring them improved organization, will intensify the communist indoctrination of the working class, and will improve the activity of the labor unions in all its aspects. All this will inevitably lead to new production achievements, the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plan and of the pledges made to Comrade Vulko Chervenkov in industry, mines, transportation, and construction, and to the satisfaction of the needs of the working people in Bulgaria with a larger, higher-grade production.

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